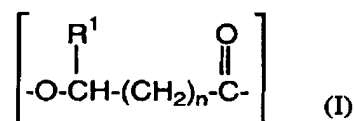


Appl. No. 10/051,723  
 Atty. Docket No. 8487M  
 Amdt. dated 08/31/2004  
 Amendment After Allowance Under 37 CFR 1.312  
 Customer No. 27752

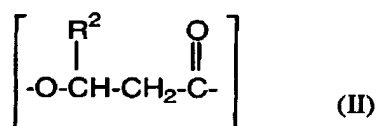
### AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. *(Currently amended)* An environmentally degradable melt spun composition comprising:  
 a PLA polymer or copolymer; and  
 a polyhydroxyalkanoate copolymer comprising at least two randomly repeating monomer units  
 wherein a first monomer unit has structure (I)



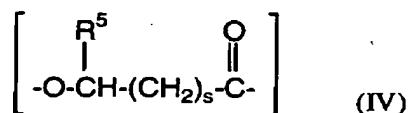
where R<sup>1</sup> is H, or C1 or C2 alkyl, and n is 1 or 2; and  
 wherein a second monomer unit has structure (II)



where R<sup>2</sup> is a C3- ~~C9~~ C19 alkyl or C3- ~~C9~~ C19 alkenyl,

wherein the composition is in the form of a fiber having a diameter of about 50 micrometers or less.

2. *(Original)* The composition of Claim 1 wherein the polyhydroxyalkanoate copolymer comprises a third randomly repeating monomer having structure (IV):

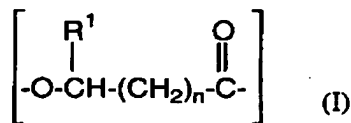


where R<sup>5</sup> is H, or C1-C19 alkyl or alkenyl, and s is 1 or 2, with the proviso that the third monomer is not the same as the first or second monomer.

Appl. No. 10/051,723  
Atty. Docket No. 8487M  
Amdt. dated 08/31/2004  
Amendment After Allowance Under 37 CFR 1.312  
Customer No. 27752

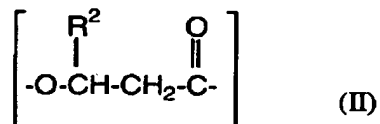
3. *(Original)* The composition of Claim 1 further comprising a second polyhydroxyalkanoate polymer or copolymer.
4. *(Original)* The composition of Claim 1 wherein the polyhydroxyalkanoate copolymer is present in an amount of from 10% to 90% by weight of the fiber.
5. *(Original)* The composition of Claim 1 wherein the PLA polymer or copolymer is present in an amount of from 10% to 90% by weight of the fiber.
6. *(Original)* The composition of Claim 1 comprising a PLA polymer and wherein the PLA polymer is crystallizable polylactic acid having a melting temperature of from 160°C to 175°C.
7. *(Canceled)*
8. *(Canceled)*
9. *(Previously presented)* The environmentally degradable multicomponent fiber of Claim 22 wherein the fiber has two components having a sheath-core configuration wherein the first component is the sheath and the second component is the core.
10. *(Previously presented)* The environmentally degradable multicomponent fiber of Claim 22 wherein the fiber has two components having a sheath-core configuration wherein the first component is the core and the second component is the sheath.
11. *(Currently amended)* An environmentally degradable fiber produced by melt spinning a composition comprising a polyhydroxyalkanoate copolymer and a PLA polymer or copolymer, wherein said polyhydroxyalkanoate copolymer comprises at least two randomly repeating monomer units

wherein a first monomer unit has structure (I)



Appl. No. 10/051,723  
 Atty. Docket No. 8487M  
 Amdt. dated 08/31/2004  
 Amendment After Allowance Under 37 CFR 1.312  
 Customer No. 27752

where  $R^1$  is H, or C1 or C2 alkyl, and n is 1 or 2; and  
 wherein a second monomer unit has structure (II)



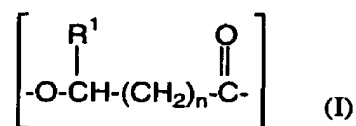
where  $R^2$  is a C3- ~~C9~~ C19 alkyl or C3- ~~C9~~ C19 alkenyl,  
 wherein the fiber has a diameter of about 50 micrometers or less.

12. (Original) A nonwoven web comprising the fiber of Claim 1.
13. (Previously presented) A nonwoven web comprising the multicomponent fiber of Claim 21.
14. (Previously presented) A nonwoven web comprising the multicomponent fiber of Claim 22.
15. (Original) A disposable article comprising the nonwoven web of Claim 12.
16. (Original) A disposable article comprising the nonwoven web of Claim 13.
17. (Previously presented) An environmentally degradable composition comprising a 3-hydroxybutyrate/3-hydroxyhexanoate copolymer and a PLA polymer or copolymer wherein the composition is in the form of a fiber having a diameter of about 50 micrometers or less.
18. (Canceled)
19. (Original) A nonwoven web comprising the fiber of Claim 17.
20. (Original) A disposable article comprising the nonwoven web of Claim 19.
21. (Previously presented) An environmentally degradable multicomponent fiber wherein at least one component has a composition comprising:

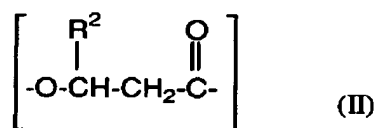
Appl. No. 10/051,723  
 Atty. Docket No. 8487M  
 Amdt. dated 08/31/2004  
 Amendment After Allowance Under 37 CFR 1.312  
 Customer No. 27752

a PLA polymer or copolymer; and

a polyhydroxyalkanoate copolymer comprising at least two randomly repeating monomer units  
 wherein a first monomer unit has structure (I)

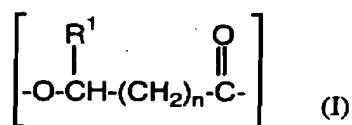


where  $\text{R}^1$  is H, or C1 or C2 alkyl, and  $n$  is 1 or 2; and  
 wherein a second monomer unit has structure (II)

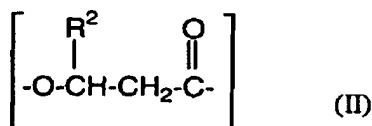


where  $\text{R}^2$  is a C3-C19 alkyl or C3-C19 alkenyl,  
 wherein the composition is in the form of a fiber having a diameter of about 50 micrometers or less.

22. (Previously presented) An environmentally degradable multicomponent fiber wherein a first component comprises a polyhydroxyalkanoate copolymer comprising at least two randomly repeating monomer units wherein a first monomer unit has structure (I)



where  $\text{R}^1$  is H, or C1 or C2 alkyl, and  $n$  is 1 or 2; and  
 wherein a second monomer unit has structure (II)



where  $\text{R}^2$  is a C3-C19 alkyl or C3-C19 alkenyl,

Appl. No. 10/051,723  
Atty. Docket No. 8487M  
Amdt. dated 08/31/2004  
Amendment After Allowance Under 37 CFR 1.312  
Customer No. 27752

and a second component comprises a PLA polymer or copolymer,  
wherein said fiber has a diameter of about 50 micrometers or less.

23. *(Previously presented)* The composition of Claim 1 wherein the fiber has a diameter of about 30 micrometers or less.

24. *(Previously presented)* An environmentally degradable bicomponent fiber comprising a sheath-core configuration wherein the core is a 3-hydroxybutyrate/3-hydroxyhexanoate copolymer and the sheath is a PLA polymer or copolymer wherein said fiber has a diameter of about 50 micrometers or less.

**This Page is Inserted by IFW Indexing and Scanning  
Operations and is not part of the Official Record**

**BEST AVAILABLE IMAGES**

Defective images within this document are accurate representations of the original documents submitted by the applicant.

Defects in the images include but are not limited to the items checked:

- ☐ BLACK BORDERS
- ☐ IMAGE CUT OFF AT TOP, BOTTOM OR SIDES
- ☐ FADED TEXT OR DRAWING
- ☐ BLURRED OR ILLEGIBLE TEXT OR DRAWING
- ☐ SKEWED/SLANTED IMAGES
- ☐ COLOR OR BLACK AND WHITE PHOTOGRAPHS
- ☐ GRAY SCALE DOCUMENTS
- ☒ LINES OR MARKS ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT
- ☐ REFERENCE(S) OR EXHIBIT(S) SUBMITTED ARE POOR QUALITY
- ☐ OTHER: \_\_\_\_\_

**IMAGES ARE BEST AVAILABLE COPY.**

**As rescanning these documents will not correct the image problems checked, please do not report these problems to the IFW Image Problem Mailbox.**